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Peres: Israel might intervene in southern Lebanon

TEL AVIV, April 25 (AFP) — Israeli Defence Minister and caretaker premier Shimon Peres today said the entry of Syrian troops into south Lebanon would be one of three reasons that would provoke Israeli intervention in Lebanon. Israel would intervene in south Lebanon -- where fighting has been recently reported between Palestinians and rightist Lebanese -- if "Syrian forces descend south of the red line". Mr. Peres told a political meeting today at the port of Asqalan. He said two other actions would result in Israeli intervention: The return of Palestinian guerrillas near the Lebanon-Israeli border, and attacks on rightist Lebanese villages.

Perez, Fahd hold talks

RIYADH, April 25 (R) — Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, on the third leg of a Middle East tour to try to heal the split between oil producing countries over prices, held his first round of talks tonight with Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia. Senior Perez was originally scheduled to pay only a courtesy call on Prince Fahd at the royal palace, but this turned into a discussion lasting about 80 minutes. Prince Fahd told newsmen after the meeting: "We consider the president a friend of the Arab nation and particularly of Saudi Arabia. The talks with the president started today and by God's grace we will complete them tomorrow." He gave no further details.

Palestinian command orders withdrawal from Beirut combat zone

BEIRUT, April 25 (Agencies) — Commander of Palestinian forces today ordered a withdrawal of "extremist elements" from the combat zone in a Beirut suburb where leftists and Palestinians clashed for the second consecutive day with troops of the Arab peace-keeping force here. The fighting, in which tanks and machine-guns were used, was confined to an area of the northern Al Mazraa district controlled by a pro-Libyan Nasserite faction. The order went out to "all extremist elements to withdraw from the streets and to evacuate the rooftops of buildings" in the area, which is near the Palestinian refugee camp, southern Beirut, following efforts by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to calm the situation in meetings with other command chiefs. A communique issued here, Palestinian resistance said, ordered the Palestinian military police (CLAP), with the aid of elements from various Palestinian organisations, "has been responsible for implementing the order." The Palestine Liberation Organisation command had already begun setting up control posts and patrols were out in the area to ensure the "armed elements" (Palestinian and Lebanese "extremists") withdrew. The communique said the issues had been agreed upon during two meetings today of the Palestinian command. A "stable ceasefire" was also ordered, it added. There was no sign of any withdrawal by the largely Syrian peace-keeping force in the nearby Sabra, the biggest and most populous Palestinian district of Beirut. The era of the factions and fratricides is finished for ever," it declared. Meanwhile, the climate created by the current outbreak of fighting was expected to disrupt plans for a popular rally on May 1 in memory of Lebanese leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt, assassinated in March. In Washington, a State Department spokesman said today the U.S. was considering the possibility of equipping the Lebanese army but no decision has been taken yet. According to the spokesman, Lebanese needs were being studied "in general terms", and there had been no specific request from Beirut.



WHITE HOUSE WELCOME -- His Majesty King Hussein, flanked by U.S. President Carter and Mrs. Carter, stands at attention during the playing of national anthems during welcoming ceremonies at the White House Monday. (AP wirephoto).

Time ripe for major push towards Geneva, Hussein, Carter agree

WASHINGTON, April 25 (R) — President Carter and His Majesty King Hussein today discussed the question of Palestinian representation in Middle East peace negotiations, one of the major stumbling blocks to an overall settlement. The two men met in the White House oval office for 75 minutes in the first of three rounds of talks they are holding today and tomorrow. "The two leaders concentrated on ways to advance the negotiating process in the Middle East," a White House statement said after the opening discussion. "They discussed various ideas that have been put forward recently with regard to the question of Palestinian representation in the negotiations and how to resolve the Palestinian problem once those negotiations begin. President Carter suggested the establishment of a "federal union" or "link" between Jordan and the Palestinians, presidential spokesman Jody Powell added. "The two leaders also discussed the other two central elements of a settlement: territorial boundaries and the nature of peace." King Hussein stressed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination on their own land and the need for total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, a member of the Jordanian delegation accompanying King Hussein told JNA. The King also highlighted the central role of Jerusalem for permanent peace in the region and Arab rights to the holy city, he added. President Carter said earlier this month that one possibility which could solve the question of the Palestinians in any renewed Geneva conference could be to give them representation in the Jordanian delegation. King Hussein favours one Arab delegation -- instead of separate Syrian, Jordanian and Egyptian teams -- which would include Palestinians. The White House said that in their discussions, President Carter and King Hussein agreed that the time is right for a major effort looking toward reconvening the Geneva conference in the second half of 1977.

Bhutto may weather storm of opposition protest with army help

ISLAMABAD, April 25 (R) — Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, with a series of tough measures to hunt opposition agitation, seems to be riding out the worst crisis in his five-year leadership of Pakistan, diplomats said here today. Last week, many diplomats were convinced the 49-year-old prime minister was on the way out as the opposition built up pressure to try to force him to resign. "Now it looks like he's getting back on top, at least for the time being," said one Western diplomat. Mr. Bhutto met the opposition threat head-on last week. He declared martial law in three of the principal opposition cities, imposed press censorship and then arrested the leadership of the defiant Pakistan National Alliance (PNA). The result has been a sharp drop in the level of agitation and political violence since last Friday's blood-bath when about 40 people were killed in widespread clashes. "The imposition of martial law made it clear to the opposition that Mr. Bhutto was not going to bow out without a fight," said one diplomatic analyst. "It has had the effect of calming the situation as the opposition is not really keen to take on the army," the analyst said. Mr. Bhutto clamped martial law on Karachi, Lahore and Hyderabad to head off opposition violence last Friday, when the nine-party PNA coalition had called a nationwide strike to press demands for his ouster and fresh elections. The PNA claims Mr. Bhutto resorted to massive rigging in last month's general election to keep his Pakistan People Party (PPP) in power, and insists it will keep up the agitation until he steps down. To keep up the confrontation, the new PNA high command and yesterday called for a "long march" to Rawalpindi next Saturday to stage a sit-in outside Mr. Bhutto's official residence. The PNA is hoping more than two million people will converge on Rawalpindi from all over the country. Although the PNA said the mass demonstration should remain peaceful, observers said it could spark off another blood-bath. They said the security forces were unlikely to allow the demonstrators anywhere near the prime minister's heavily-guarded house. Gen. Tikka Khan, former army chief, was today elected to the senate, and informed sources said Mr. Bhutto was likely to appoint him as either defence or interior minister later this week. A PNA lawyer today moved a petition in the Lahore high court to challenge the constitutionality of martial law. He was previously in the Moscow embassy from 1961 to 1962. Other positions include Poland, Hungary, Italy and Czechoslovakia. From 1965 to 1968, Mr. Toon was Director of the State Department's Soviet Affairs Bureau.

Israeli troops on the alert

TEL AVIV, April 25 (R) — Military officials said here today that the Israeli armed forces had increased their frontier alertness during the past few weeks following what they called increased activities involving the armies of Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The officials said the extra alertness apparently includes the call-up of Israeli reservists. Israeli Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Mordechai Gur hinted in an interview last Friday that Israel was concerned about developments in the three neighbouring Arab countries, which it was following very closely. The Israeli officials said today that the Egyptian armed forces were continuing intensive training they started six weeks ago. The Israelis said the Jordanians had redeployed their army and that the Syrian army in Lebanon had been reorganised.

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Owen quoted telling Fahmi EEC prepared to mount Mideast peace initiative next autumn

BRUSSELS, April 25 (R) — The nine EEC countries were ready and willing to take some kind of semi-independent initiative in the autumn, Dr. Owen was quoted as saying. Speaking to reporters later, the British foreign secretary said the general feeling in the EEC was that the time for a European initiative was not ripe because general elections would shortly be held in Israel and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance was planning a Middle East tour in June. Dr. Owen told Mr. Fahmi that the Carter administration would likely take a powerful and consistent lead in trying to achieve a settlement and that the EEC could play a supporting role at the right time, the sources said. Talks with Mr. Fahmi were "very good" Dr. Owen said. Subjects covered included Southern Africa, the Horn of Africa, insurgency in Zaire, and the role of the Soviet Union in Africa as well as the Middle East, he added. Egypt has been strongly critical of Soviet activity in Africa. Dr. Owen arrived here last night for a two-day visit, his first to Egypt since he became foreign secretary in February. Before the two ministers start their talks, they signed an agreement to prevent dual taxation between Egypt and Britain. The agreement, applicable to investments and individual income, will remove a potential barrier to the growth of bilateral trade and investment, officials here said. Earlier today, Dr. Owen opened an English language teaching centre at the British Council headquarters here.

U.S. names ambassador to Moscow

WASHINGTON, April 25 (AFP) — U.S. President Jimmy Carter today confirmed the appointment of Malcolm Toon as United States ambassador to Moscow. Mr. Toon is already occupying the post, having been appointed temporary ambassador last October by President Gerald Ford. A career diplomat, Mr. Toon was U.S. ambassador to Israel from 1975 to 1976. He was previously in the Moscow embassy from 1961 to 1962. Other positions include Poland, Hungary, Italy and Czechoslovakia. From 1965 to 1968, Mr. Toon was Director of the State Department's Soviet Affairs Bureau.

Zairese rebels reportedly abandon Mutshatsha town

KINSHASA, April 25 (AFP) — Zairese rebels today abandoned the important town of Mutshatsha to advancing Zairese government and Moroccan forces without firing a shot, scattering weapons and uniforms along the route, reports reaching here said today. Informed sources said the rebel-held town of Kapanga 450 kms. to the west was expected to fall today. President Mobutu Sese Seko's forces had infiltrated pygmy warriors into Kapanga armed with bows and arrows, and their presence was weakening the Katangese resistance, sources said. The fall of Mutshatsha, 110 kms. west of the key copper mining town of Kolwezi, had important symbolic value. The Zairese-Moroccan force seized Mutshatsha railway station 20 kms from the battle zone reported. The invaders were said to have left guns, ammunition and uniforms behind and there appears to have been no organised resistance. A source who travelled a 90 kms. stretch of road from Kolwezi towards Mutshatsha yesterday said there was no firing. He said villages along the route had been abandoned or burned down. There was a mysterious absence of resistance from the Katangese as Zairese-Moroccan troops closed in on an important bridge across the Lubudi river on the road from Kolwezi yesterday, the source said. He described seeing Zairese air force Machi strike aircraft streaking overhead towards Mutshatsha but heard no explosions and had no indications of any other firing. All the signs today were that the Katangese were on the point of abandoning their invasion altogether while observers here speculated on their possible next move, whether they will retreat into Angola, or whether the Zairese and Moroccan forces will force them into a surrender before that. Or there is the possibility that their abandonment of weapons and uniforms could mean they plan to melt into the local population prior to launching a classic guerrilla campaign.

EEC urged to work out common policy on M.E.

MADRID, April 25 (R) — Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath today called on European Common Market countries to work out a common foreign policy towards the Middle East. Addressing the Spanish Chamber of Commerce here, Mr. Heath said "we need common solutions to common problems." Mr. Heath said the common market had been unprepared for the 1973 oil crisis and had been unable to coordinate policy. "Today we are still unprepared to face an emergency of that kind," he said.

Mubarak hands Giscard message from Sadat

PARIS, April 25 (R) — Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak today handed a message from President Anwar Sadat to President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, which he said, mainly dealt with the Egyptian leader's recent visit to the United States. "President Sadat found President Carter had a deep understanding of the Arab viewpoint which in the past was rarely taken into account by American presidents," he told reporters on leaving the Elysee presidential palace. Referring to President Sadat's message to the French leader, he said: "This message essentially deals with the results of President Sadat's visit to the United States." He said President Giscard d'Estaing fully approved President Sadat's initiatives for peace in the Middle East. "He termed them 'excellent and very wise' and thinks they should bring about a peace agreement as soon as possible," Mr. Mubarak said. President Giscard d'Estaing had reaffirmed it was necessary that a Palestinian state be set up by the Egyptian vice president added. He arrived here last night from Tunis and later today meets Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud. He is scheduled to fly to Belgrade tomorrow and later is due to visit Bucharest, Egyptian officials said.

Probe is underway into Eban's foreign accounts

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 25 (R) — Israel's Finance Ministry officials are searching through their archives to find out whether former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban was given permission to keep bank accounts abroad, ministry sources said. Mr. Eban has admitted that he has accounts in the United States but has denied that he broke the country's stringent foreign currency laws -- an offence that forced Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to step down earlier this month. Mr. Eban, in charge of foreign affairs from 1966 to 1974, said he received written permission to hold accounts abroad. The ministry sources said it could take several days to find a letter authorising his foreign currency holdings. Mr. Eban, 62, number three in Israel's ruling Labour Party, said that the permit for the accounts was issued in 1967. It had been due for renewal in 1975 but he had failed to apply for it. Ministry officials indicated during the weekend that failure to renew the permit would probably be considered a technical error not meriting prosecution. Political sources said they expected further allegations of financial irregularities against rival political leaders during the election campaign.



Mr. Abba Eban



AGREEMENT -- Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi (right) and British Foreign Minister David Owen sign agreement to avoid double taxation at the Foreign Office, Monday. (AP wirephoto).

هكذا صحت اقول

ECWA meet unanimously accepts PLO as full member

AMMAN (Agencies). — The United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) unanimously decided to accept the Palestine Liberation Organisation as a full member at its meeting here Sunday.

The sources said the decision required the approval of the U.N. Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) in New York.

The PLO is taking part in the fourth session of the commission, which opened here Sunday, as an observer. In addition, delegates from 12 Arab countries are attending the session as full members.

The commission also agreed to the participation of a number of non-member states in the current session as consultants. These are the Soviet Union, West Germany, Pakistan, Turkey, Czechoslovakia, Algeria, Romania, France, Finland, Egypt, Holland, the United States, Japan and Greece.

ce of coordinating regional economic and technical planning among member states.

Collective Security

A message from Mr. Gabriel van Laethem, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs was read to the session.

Mr. van Laethem stressed the importance of continuing a dialogue between the rich and poor, especially as the economic situation in the West was still weak.



Prince Hassan: Coordination.

Prince Hassan Calls

For Coordination

His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, opening the session, called for coordination among ECWA member-states and international agencies specialised in social and economic development. ECWA should also benefit from the expertise of engineers, town and village planners and industrialists in the region, he continued.

The Crown Prince praised efforts by ECWA to reconstruct northern Lebanon and "ease the pain from which the Lebanese people have suffered."

Jordan, he added, depends on the participation of its qualified manpower in the development of Jordan. Thousands of Jordanians, the prince added, are also working in neighbouring Arab countries. They have proved their high efficiency and ability to construct and develop the Arab region.

Waldheim Urges

Resources Restraint

ECWA Executive Secretary Dr. Muhammad Said Al Attar read a message from U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim in which he emphasised the importance of "restraint in exploiting the scarce resources of this world for the benefit and prosperity of its inhabitants. He also called for the implementation of appropriate world policies to ensure the welfare of mankind. The secretary general's message outlined the vital role assumed by ECWA member-states and stressed the importance

tribution within the region of the means and opportunities for economic and social progress."

Diversification

Touching upon the problem of developing an economy, which relies solely on oil, the ECWA official urged the creation of more diversified economies.

He considered the main tasks facing the countries of the region to be: "To diversify their economies, by laying the foundations for lasting and autonomous development, largely free from external subjections and constraints.

To plan that development, seeking to integrate the social elements as harmoniously as possible, and thus to achieve growth which is balanced as regards regions and categories, taking into account the satisfaction of basic needs."

"To take advantage of the exceptional diversity of resources, needs and opportunities offered by the countries of the region to create exemplary cooperation among them."

He saw one of the main tasks facing the countries in the region as the reconstruction of war-shattered Lebanon.

Referring to his own organisation, he stated that the regional economic commissions -- like ECWA -- had an important role to play as links between member-states and the United Nations. Ecosoc, he stated, will rely more heavily on the commissions "for the collection and dissemination of information and as executing agencies in the field of technical cooperation."

Problems Remain

The need for diversification was also a keynote of a speech delivered by Dr. Al Attar. He stressed that an economy that

relies on oil and mining to such an extent leaves itself open to the vicissitudes of the world market.

He drew a distinction between the high growth rates -- an annual rate of over six per cent -- and the problems facing the region, such as manpower and food shortages, which should be solved by adopting a policy of integrated development among all the countries of the region.

He mentioned the various projects that ECWA had undertaken, such as a pilot project of wheat production in east Jordan and a study of water resources in the period up to 1990, as well as a series of studies on energy, transport and housing.

The week-long session will discuss a number of subjects related to economic and social cooperation among member-states, as well as fixing ECWA's working priorities for the coming year.

The opening session was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, a number of high-ranking government officials, ministers, the chief chamberlain and Arab and foreign ambassadors accredited to Jordan.

Dajani Elected Chairman

During the session's second meeting at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel Sunday afternoon, Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Najmeddine Dajani was elected chairman.

The commission resumed its meetings Monday morning to discuss a report on its activities over the past year.

The report included the committee's working plan for that period, the question of the brain drain from the region, the Euro-Arab dialogue and a project to set up a documentation centre. Also discussed was the establishment of a consultant group to help reconstructing Lebanon, in addition to coordination and cooperation between the commission and Arab and regional institutions and funds.

Brain Drain

At ECWA's meeting Monday evening, the Jordanian representative, referring to the brain drain, said that people do not only migrate abroad, but also among the region's countries. He suggested the question should be treated through regional cooperation and not on the basis of individual countries.

Others to speak at the evening session included representatives from Iraq, Oman, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and the PLO.



Premier Mudar Badran looks over some of the experimental installations for the potash project at Ghor Nimeira on the southeastern shore of the Dead Sea during a visit Monday. The project will produce one million tonnes of potash per year by 1981.

Cereals meet opens

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday opened a conference looking into ways of boosting quality and quantity of wheat and barley in rainfed and marginal areas.

He stated that Jordan had been able to invest large amounts of capital in its development projects -- with agriculture receiving a fair proportion.

Dr. Glenn Anderson, Associate Director of the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the organisers of the conference, substituted for Nobel laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug, in giving the first paper.

Dr. Anderson discussed the world food supply, hitting on three major points for the maintenance of food supply.

Population control was Dr. Anderson's first point. In Western Europe and the United States, population growth is very well under control, whereas in the other parts of the world it is going up very rapidly.

Modern education in technology was the second point. Much land is unexploited in many areas of the world. Food storage was the third and last point. It is well known in the world that so long as there is low production, there is a high price for grain and vice versa. Prices should come to a certain maintained level. Better marketing systems should be followed and production should only fulfill needed requirements, he concluded.

CABINET OKAYS LAW ON DONATION OF HUMAN PARTS

AMMAN (JNA). — The Cabinet Sunday approved in principle a draft law for making use of parts of the human body for medical reasons.

The law, the first of its kind in Jordan, aims to legalise the donation of parts of the human body for humanitarian cases.

Numerous transplants are currently being performed with success here.

POPULATION JUMPS 3.4%

AMMAN (R). — The population of the East Bank of Jordan stood at 2,918,407 at the end of last year, according to official figures released here Sunday.

This represented an increase of 3.4 per cent compared with 1975.

The figure is made up of 1,026,282 males and 992,125 females. No figures for the population of the occupied West Bank were given.

U. of J. group to probe southern desert areas

AMMAN (JNA). — A group of professors and students at the Faculty of Economy and Commerce at the University of Jordan Tuesday start a six-day field study of social, economic, and educational conditions in the southern desert areas.

The study, conducted in cooperation with the Department

of Statistics, will cover 17 localities in Wadi Araba, Al Shara and the eastern desert area.

The Dean of the Faculty of Economy and Commerce, Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, who is heading the team, said a report will be submitted to the government on how to deal with the area's problems and provide services to the desert inhabitants.

A similar group prepared a report last year on conditions of inhabitants in the northern desert area.

These activities are part of the university's policy to increase cooperation between itself and the people, so that the university can effectively participate in the development effort.

Joint company to buy ships

DAMASCUS (JNA). — Syrian-Jordanian committees Sunday ended a series of meetings held over the past few days to achieve full integration between the two countries.

The General Assembly of the Jordanian-Syrian Maritime Company, which has a capital of JD 8 million, decided to buy old and new commercial vessels to serve Syrian-Jordanian trade.

At the same time, the joint committee looking into the unification of laws and regulations completed studies on standardising the dress, ranks and operational systems of the police.

The Jordanian Director of Civil Defence, Maj.-Gen. Khaled Al Tarawneh, arrived here Sunday at the head of an official delegation for talks on unifying civil defence regulations.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	589.0	575.0
U.S. Dollar	33.0	33.2
German mark	139.0	140.0
French franc	66.7	67.0
Swiss franc	131.2	131.6
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.3	37.5
Saudi riyal	93.5	93.9
Lebanese pound	109.0	109.4
Syrian pound	80.8	81.0
Iraqi dinar	947.0	952.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1145.0	1150.0
Egyptian pound	567.0	575.0
Libyan dinar	795.0	810.0
UAE dirham	84.6	85.0

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ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

GATT reports import curbing trend

GENEVA, April 25 (AFP). — The trend towards curbing imports and subsidising exports remains "very strong", the secretary of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said today in its annual report.

Last year, protectionist measures were fewer and of less consequence than might have been feared, in view of the difficult international trade climate, the report said.

It praised the manner in which governments continued

to face up to their collective responsibility and avoid a return to a protectionist era that would harm the world community as a whole.

Pressures for curbing imports and subsidising exports "remain very strong" at the moment.

The report said that world trade rose by a healthy 12 per cent to 860,000 million dollars last year, but the production upturn was only half as much and unemployment generally remained high.

McNamara re-appointed as World Bank president

WASHINGTON, April 25 (R). — The World Bank announced yesterday the re-appointment of Mr. Robert McNamara, president since 1968, to a third five-year term beginning April 1, 1978.

The announcement said Mr. McNamara, 60, had agreed to serve another term as president of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, of the International Finance Corporation, and of the International Development Association.

A former director of the Ford Motor Company and secretary of defence during the build-up of the Vietnam war

under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, Mr. McNamara has been an eloquent spokesman in the industrialised world for the needs of developing countries.

After the spiral of inflation that followed the oil price increases of 1973, he warned that the poorest nations of the world were the principal victims of inflation, and recommended that total lending by the inter-governmental World Bank be increased.

The World Bank said its executive directors were keenly aware of the great advances made by the bank in the field of development under Mr. McNamara's leadership and wanted to ensure continuing progress.

U.S. officials begin national campaign for Carter's energy saving programme

WASHINGTON, April 25 (R). — A small army of administration officials begins fanning out across the United States this week to convince Americans that President Carter's energy saving programme will be an economic bonanza for consumers.

According to the administration, low and moderate income families will get back more in tax rebates than they will spend on higher energy prices, including new petrol taxes.

President Carter, giving details of the programme last week, said: "As far as the consumers are concerned, those who conserve a substantial amount of energy will derive a substantial benefit."

But he added: "I can't certify today that every nickel of the taxes collected will be refunded to consumers."

Now officials have sent out the word that they are available for meetings throughout the country -- including radio and television talk-shows and general entertainment programmes like "the Dinah Shore Show" -- to put the energy proposals across to the people.

The most controversial part

of Mr. Carter's plan goes right to the heart of what is near and dear to millions of Americans -- the so-called "gas-guzzling" giants from Detroit.

In the world's most mobile society, big cars are part of the American way of life.

The sacrifice for many Americans will be the cherished belief in big cars, as Mr. James Schlesinger, the president's energy adviser, put it yesterday.

He told a television interviewer: "all of us will have to get used to using smaller automobiles," and added: "Large cars are not mentioned in the inalienable rights in the Declaration of Independence."

Mr. Schlesinger, interviewed on the CBS programme "Face the Nation," said the country would face serious energy shortages in the 1980s if the challenge was not faced now.

"We all know we can reduce the consumption of gasoline. It is a challenge," he said.

Despite the warnings that drivers of big, petrol-thirsty cars are going to be penalised through higher taxes, Americans are still buying the larger models produced by the big four manufacturers.

The latest models of two of the biggest and most luxurious American cars -- General Motors' Cadillac and Ford's Lincoln -- are attracting buyers as fast as the Detroit assembly lines can turn them out.

Under Mr. Carter's proposals, the extra tax on highly inefficient cars could go to nearly

2,500 dollars by 1985. "I don't think general public is in a frame of mind to be afraid, although there are more requests about smaller engines," said one car sales manager. Another dealer said: "There are too many people in the U.S. who are driving big cars and they're going to continue."

China's petrol production to be stepped up

PEKING, April 25 (AFP). — Mao Tse-tung's successor Chairman Hua Kuo-feng has personally revealed one of the main obstacles to the development of China's economy: The lack of scientific and technical workers and their insufficient proficiency.

He also announced that petroleum production in China would be stepped up.

The New China News Agency said Chairman Hua made these statements during a visit from April 17-19 to the Taching oil field and petrochemical complex in Heilungkiang (formerly Manchuria), the Chinese oil capital.

A national conference on industry, the first of its kind since 1949, opened in Taching on April 20.

The official media said Sunday that Chairman Hua spoke to researchers and technicians who had shown him round a scientific exhibition. He told them: "We must carry out scientific experiments conscientiously and train more scientists and technicians. We must say that the number of scientists in our country is small and their level of proficiency not high enough. We must not rest on the laurels of what we have achieved."

Chairman Hua said Chiang Ching-kuang's gang of four radical leaders arrested last October were responsible for the poor situation in this field, and attacked their "interference and sabotage." He called for the elimination of "their noxious influence."

The Chinese leader also told the Taching Party Committee to provide more and more cadres and workers for the new oil finds in order to boost petroleum production.

China's current production is put by foreign experts at around 90 million tons, about 30 million of which comes from Taching.

New China said Chairman Hua recently "called on us to speed up the development of the petroleum industry." As a result, oil production was immediately boosted, notable in Taching itself which is one of the world's biggest oilfields.

The first phase of the "learn from Taching" conference lasted four days, from April 20-23, and will continue in Peking, New China reported last night.

The resumption of the conference in the capital had been expected but not officially announced. The agency gave no date for the start of the second stage which should be within the next few days.

A total of 7,000 representatives attended the first part of the conference which was presided over by Chairman Hua. Vice-Premier Li Hsien-shan, an economist, made the opening speech at the meeting where several members of the government including five vice-premiers were present.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices suffered a sharp decline in fairly active trading Monday on the New York stock exchange, where the industrial average lost more than 12 points and fell back to its lowest level since January 1976.

Uncertainty about President Carter's energy programme was apparently the reason for this new decline, along with traditional investors' worries about inflation and higher interest rates.

Losers outnumbered gainers at the bell by a very wide 1,204 to 298 margin as most groups of shares closed on a weaker tone.

Chemical and department store issues were among the hardest hit, along with many blue chips and glamour stocks. Eastman Kodak, for example, lost four points to 60-1/4 in active trading, while General Electric and Dow Chemical both fell more than one dollar. Phillips Petroleum lost 4-1/2 to \$33 following the accident in one of its North Sea platforms "Ekofisk Bravo".

At the close, the industrial average shows at \$14.60, a loss of 12.47 points; Transp at 232.03, a loss of 1.51; utilities at 107.39, a loss of 0.58. 20,420,000 shares changed hands, of which 4,310,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market fluctuated in interest due to uncertainty over future government's pay policy. The Ekofisk oil well blow-out also effected sentiment -- particularly oils, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. index was down three points at 419.3.

Petrofina led oils lower at 101-1/8 against 114 last Friday. Equity leaders also declined.

Government bonds showed net falls of 1/4 point among longer maturities after opening that much higher helped by bank base rate reductions. Some shorts, however, firmed around 7/8 point.

Gold and dollar stocks eased while Canadians were quietly mixed.

BP ended 22p off while Shell and Tricentrol lost 10p and 5p respectively. Courtaulds, Midland Bank, Beecham, Lucas, ICI, Barclays Bank and Elsons eased between 3p and 7p. Hawker continued firm adding 31p.

Rio Tinto Zinc initially rose to 244p on news that its application for dividend control exemption had been granted, but later dropped to 240. John Laing finished 4p down after results.

Prices of gold closed in London Monday at \$148.75/oz.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* DAMASCUS, April 25 (R). — A senior Soviet delegation will arrive in Damascus shortly to exchange instruments of ratification of an economic and technical cooperation agreement signed during the visit of President Hafez Al Assad to Moscow last week. The agreement provides for Soviet help in carrying out several important projects in Syria, including the reclamation of 70,000 hectares of land for agriculture, development of the Latakia Port, extension of Syria's power network and the search for oil.

* PARIS, April 25 (R). — A new era of economic and political cooperation between Vietnam and the Western world opens today with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong's official visit here, his first to the West since the end of the Vietnam war. President Valery Giscard d'Estaing has ordered full red carpet treatment for the 71-year-old Hanoi leader who will be received here as a head of state. The four-day visit will set the seal on the reconciliation between France and its former Indochina colony and pave the way for large-scale Western aid to help Vietnam embark on agricultural and industrial development.

* TRIPOLI, April 25 (R). — The ministers of labour from Uganda, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Benin, Sierra Leone and Ghana have arrived here for the African Labour Ministers' Conference to open here today, the Arab Revolution News Agency of Libya, ARNA, reported today.

* KUWAIT, April 25 (R). — American companies would lose much of their Arab markets to competitors if they implemented proposed American legislation against co-operation with the Arab economic boycott of Israel, an official spokesman said here yesterday. "This legislation was passed as a result of Zionist initiatives in the United States," the spokesman said. Kuwait would not exempt any company, from whatever country, from the boycott regulations.

Italy will only get IMF loan subject to stringent conditions

WASHINGTON, April 25 (R). — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) meets here in executive session today to discuss Italy's application to borrow the equivalent of 530 million dollars from the fund to help bolster its sagging economy.

Italy has been negotiating for the loan, which will be subject to stringent conditions, for several months.

International monetary sources said they do not expect Italy's application to run into any serious hurdles and the

loan is almost certain to be approved.

However they said it will be made clear to the Italian government that the conditions of the loan must be strictly adhered to.

The Italian government will not be able to draw the loan all at once, and the money will be dispensed in three separate portions. If the conditions agreed between the IMF and the Italian government are not met, then the fund reserves the right to refuse to disburse the next instalment.

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هجره احد التصل

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when you are eager for praise and encouragement, but it will be difficult to attain because others are too preoccupied with own affairs. Be more optimistic about the future.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Show that you are persevering and gain the goodwill of associates. Go to the right sources for the data you need.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Fine day to improve conditions at home in every way so that you stave off trouble in the future. Take health treatments.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have to be very careful in motion today and thereby avoid possible accident. Show that you have wisdom.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Make long-range plans that will give you added income in the future. Be happy with the one you love.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) You may find it difficult to gain your personal aims but don't be forceful with other people you don't know all the facts involved.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study any drawbacks you have that could keep you from advancing and get rid of them. Think along more abundant lines.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may find it difficult to attain some desire now, but be patient. Get together with friends during spare time and express happiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Engage in some kind of public work that can add to your prestige. Exercise greater effort in vocational matters.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Study new outlets that could prove to be quite profitable in the future. Be more careful in dealing with strangers today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Handle routine duties early in the day for best results. Think of how to improve your position with your mate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study your relationship with associates and try to improve it. Don't criticize others or you get into trouble.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You had better get working on constructive affairs early or you could lose out here it counts the most. Express happiness.

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TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON: THE HAWK
Children are frightened by the appearance of a hawk and family opposes his being shot down.

PHYLLIS: OFF THE BEACH

Phyllis tries to help reluctant vagabond regain normal and honourable life.

OUT AND ABOUT

- CHINESE RESTAURANT**
First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Abilyah School or CMS. Tel. 38968. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service - order by phone.
- THE DIPLOMAT**
First Circle, Jabal Amman. Tel. 25582. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

For advertising in above columns contact "Sour Wa Sour" Tel. 38869. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

PEANUTS

THE FLINTSTONES

MUTT AND JEFF

THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes

ENGLAND
White
"Edward - I have just burned that for which we should have been truly thankful."

THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes

"Of course I don't drive as well as you do! I don't have me sitting next to me to advise me!"

GRAFFITI

MAN WITH MONEY TO BURN OFTEN MAKES ASH OF SELF

...HALLO!
IS THIS 67171-2-3-4?
I'D LIKE TO RESERVE A SPACE FOR AN AD IN THE JORDAN TIMES...

WORLD RECORDS

The longest beard preserved was that of Hans N. Langseth born 1846 in Norway, which measured 5.33 metres (17 1/2 ft.) at the time of his death in 1927 after 15 years residence in the United States. The beard was presented to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. in 1967.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



MUSIC AUTOMATICALLY TRANSCRIBED INTO MANUSCRIPT

This organ is fitted with a new device, developed in Scotland, which records every note played on a standard cassette tape for automatic transcription by computer into manuscript form.

The system electronically scans the keyboard twenty-times-a-second. This registers which keys are depressed and for how long -- recording the information on tape as a series of impulses.

The musician specifies the key and time signature and these are then included in the print-out which appears in the form of standard music manuscript.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

Q.1-As South, vulnerable with 70 on score you hold: ♠AKQ98532 ♥K7 ♦A8 ♣6
What is your opening bid?
A.-While this hand would not normally qualify for a forcing two-bid, we would tend to relax the requirements in this case. There is a danger that partner, with a smattering of useful values, won't keep the bidding alive. By opening two spades and rebidding the suit at every opportunity, you are unlikely to get too high and will alert your partner to slam possibilities.

Q.2-As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠107642 ♥AK7 ♦K85 ♣A6
The bidding has proceeded: West North East South 3 ♠ Dble. Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.-Your hand is too strong for a jump to four spades because your wealth of controls offers real slam possibilities. Your first step should be a cue-bid of four clubs. Your next action depends on partner's response.

Q.3-Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠6 ♥KJ98752 ♦J8 ♣J62
The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?
A.-You have no story to tell other than hearts, so you should rebid your seven-card suit one more time. Although partner can't have more than one heart on this auction, it would be wrong for you to take a preference to a minor suit. If partner is really that strong in either minor, he is not barred from bidding again.

Q.4-East-West vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠AK872 ♥8 ♦QJ7 ♣K872
The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.-The hand will surely make at least six tricks. What you have to do is leave the maximum room for exploring grand slam chances, and the best way to do that is to fix the trump suit at the lowest level possible. A raise to four clubs fits the bill perfectly.

Q.5-Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠J7 ♥J ♦A8 ♣KJ1076542
What is your opening bid?
A.-Since you hold nothing in the majors, you want to make it as difficult as possible for the opponents to enter the bidding. Your hand qualifies for a preemptive bid, and we do not fault you if you chose to open three clubs. However, we would be prepared to forego the possibility that three no trump might be our best contract and go the whole hog with an opening bid of four clubs.

Q.6-As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠AKQJ6 ♥A6 ♦AJ52 ♣A8
The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 2 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass 3-? Pass 3 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.-Three no trump. Thus far, partner has promised nothing of value. You have eight tricks in your own hand at a no trump contract, and probably the same number in spades. It might be easier to make nine tricks at no trump than ten in the suit. If partner has a distributional hand, he can still correct to four spades.

Q.7-As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠J43 ♥AK105 ♦KQ ♣AQ72
The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.-The normal call would be two no trump, to show your 19 points. However, that might not work out too well because of the doubleton king-queen of diamonds. We suggest a reverse to two hearts to see how partner reacts. If he rebids his spades, we would prefer a contract of four spades to three no trump.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Leo

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IRRBAB
PIMSK
LAUMSY
RITTHY

Answer here: DON'T

Sunday's Jumbles: DERBY BAGGY SONATA ALIGHT
Answer: Followed the band - for the medics - "AGES" (bandages)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Signal
- Joseph's first son
- Ellywix
- Filtered
- Some
- Metal coating
- Await
- Convoy
- Had on
- Fascinate
- Mirth
- Singing syllable
- Snubs
- Relatives
- Bowling club
- Indian
- Section of a race
- Know
- Exist
- Instead of
- Below standard
- Shipsshape
- Overcome
- Autocral
- Herb
- Pronoun
- Widow monkey
- All About
- Village in Vermont
- Honest
- Achieved

DOWN

- Unit of work
- Pine Tree State
- Shark abbr.
- Pointed tools
- Appease
- Sleepie
- Track down
- Shaver
- Succeeded
- Dance
- Outfish fluid
- Apprentice
- Toot
- Greek spirit
- Toddled
- Motion picture studio
- Clashes
- Remote
- Engaver's tool
- Informal
- Abhor
- Biblical character
- Watched narrowly
- That one mentioned
- Orange seed
- As for us

Par time 20 min. AP Newsfeatures

India assures Gromyko treaty with USSR holds

NEW DELHI, April 25 (Agencies). — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko had an initial meeting today with Foreign Minister A.B. Vajpayee, following Mr. Gromyko's arrival here this afternoon on a three-day official visit.

Mr. Gromyko told reporters afterward: "It was a friendly, business-like conversation. Some of the basic questions of Indo-Soviet relations were discussed."

Mr. Vajpayee described the talk as "friendly and good", and said the atmosphere had been "cordial". He said the question of the 1971 Indo-Soviet Friendship and Cooperation Treaty had been raised.

"Both sides", he said, "have affirmed their desire to maintain and strengthen their relations to their mutual benefit." A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the two delegations

had a broad exchange of views on bilateral and international topics.

It was Mr. Gromyko's first visit to India since the government of Prime Minister Morarji Desai came to power after the March election.

In an airport statement, Mr. Gromyko said that the Soviet Union would not allow its friendship with India to hinder the development of similar relations between India and other countries.

Observers interpreted this statement as a reference to remarks by Mr. Desai last March, when he said that India would not let the Indo-Soviet treaty come between its relations with other countries.

The treaty, valid for 20 years, forbids either country to enter into a military alliance directed against the other.

To reassure the USSR, the Indian government announced this weekend that it has no intention of abrogating the treaty. The statement was in reply to one by Mr. Subramanian Swamy, a ruling Janata Party member of parliament, who last week called for the treaty to be torn up.

Mr. Gromyko will have a two-hour meeting tomorrow with Mr. Desai. He will also have two more working sessions with Mr. Vajpayee before returning home on Wednesday.

Observers believe the talks will cover the international situation and economic and scientific cooperation, particularly in the nuclear field.

India relies heavily on the Soviet Union for military equipment and the two countries are major trading partners. Indo-Soviet trade has grown by over 200 per cent since the early 1950s to around \$900 million, though the contentious issue of fixing a new exchange rate between the rupee and the rouble is still unresolved.

ETHIOPIA LASHES OUT AT KUWAIT

LONDON, April 25 (R). — Ethiopia today condemned what it said was a Kuwait government decision to support Eritrean secessionists in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa Radio reported. The radio, monitored here, quoted a spokesman for the Ministry of Information and National Guidance as saying Kuwait "have been the main source of fallacious and totally biased dispatches used for the anti-Ethiopian propaganda" outside the country.

The three correspondents are Jeremy Toy, of Reuters, Laurent Chénard, of AFP and David Ottaway, of the Washington Post.

The decision came after a weekend decision by the government to close down all consulates in Asmara, capital of Eritrea Province, and to shut down four U.S. government agencies operating here.

An American military mission which had long symbolised the U.S. position as Ethiopia's chief arms supplier was shut down abruptly on Saturday, together with three other official U.S. organisations.

The foreign staffs of all the organisations concerned were given four days to leave the country. About 100 Americans and their families were affected, but the Eritrean Consulates, representing the United States, Sudan, Italy, France, Belgium and Britain, employed very few foreigners.

The four U.S. organisations closed were the United States Information Service, a naval research unit, a communications station in Asmara and the military assistance advisory group (MAAG).

Observers believed the presence of the MAAG might have been a potential obstacle to Ethiopia's efforts to form closer links with the Communist World, particularly for arms supplies. Ethiopia's increasingly

Marxist stance makes the Soviet Bloc a natural ally. The United States has been reconsidering its military commitment to Ethiopia in view of allegations that human rights have been violated here as a result of the MAAG's activities.

Some American officials suggested that MAAG had outlived its usefulness, and military aid in terms of grants has been gradually reduced.

But Ethiopia has continued to buy American military hardware, including eight F-5E fighter planes, although foreign exchange reserves are over \$300 million, largely from high coffee prices, mean it can afford to shop around for arms.

Informed sources said Ethiopian soldiers were already training on more than 30 Soviet-built tanks recently shipped from Aden.



EXPLOSION IN ISRAEL -- Israeli demolition experts look over the damage in the back of a bus after a bomb blast wounded 23 people on Sunday. The bomb exploded while the bus was in Beer Saba' in the southern desert. (AP wirephoto)

Ethiopia expels last Western journalists

ADDIS ABABA, April 25 (R). — The last three Western journalists operating in Ethiopia were today given 48 hours to leave the country after being accused of distortion and bias. The expulsion order against the representatives of Reuters, Agence France-Presse (AFP) and the Washington Post followed other government moves apparently aimed at clearing the way for closer relations with the Communist Bloc and new initiatives against secessionist forces in the Province of Eritrea.

The government accused the three correspondents of "distorting out of all proportions events in Ethiopia in general and the progress of the ongoing revolution of the broad masses in particular."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Information and National Guidance said the journalists "have been the main source of fallacious and totally biased dispatches used for the anti-Ethiopian propaganda" outside the country.

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PORTUGUESE ANNIVERSARY -- Portugal's Socialist Premier Mario Soares, wearing the traditional sash of the peasants of central Portugal, gestures during a party rally speech denouncing Communist farm and labour policies. The rally took place in a Lisbon bull ring Sunday and opened two days of celebrations marking the April 25, 1975, democratic revolution. (AP wirephoto)

Bad weather delays capping of damaged North Sea oil rig

STAVANGER, Norway April 25 (R). — High waves today forced American experts to postpone their hazardous task of capping an out-of-control North Sea well which has been gushing thousands of tonnes of crude oil daily since last Friday night.

But the Phillips Petroleum Company, operators of the Bravo Rig in Norway's Ekofisk oil field, said prospects of jamming a cap on the well appeared to be good.

It said the top of the production pipe was undamaged and a safety valve was also in place.

The repair work would require the tightening of about 20 bolts and installation of a new safety valve, the company said.

The well blow-out has posed a potentially major pollution problem for countries bordering on the North Sea.

The job of capping it has been made more dangerous by the chance that a spark could set off a big explosion of natural gas which is also spewing out with the oil.

Norwegian officials said the

laying of several kilometres of booms in the sea to try to corner some of the growing oil slick could begin soon.

The oil has been pouring out of the well-head at the rate of 4,000 tonnes daily since the blow-out occurred during maintenance work late Friday night.

Prof. Carl August Fleischer, the Norwegian government's expert on international law, said yesterday that Phillips Petroleum Company, as operator, was solely responsible for damages that could be caused by the blow-out.

The sources said that Senator Perez felt he could play a useful role as mediator because

U.S. to pay \$40m debt to UNESCO

PARIS, April 25 (AFP). — The nearly \$40,000,000 United States debt to UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) looks like being settled soon, perhaps during the UNESCO Executive Council spring session which opened here today.

The sum covers the contributions the U.S. should have made in 1975 and 1976 to the UNESCO budget. The U.S. congress has now given the go-ahead for payment.

Venezuela was a major exporter -- the third largest in OPEC -- but was not involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict like some other OPEC members in the Middle East.

President Perez, accompanied by Foreign Minister Ramon Escobar Salom and Mines and Energy Minister Valentin Hernandez Acosta, was in Qatar on Saturday and flew to Kuwait on Sunday.

Another major topic covered by President Perez's talks has been OPEC's Special Fund to help developing countries overcome the economic repercussions of high oil prices.

SAUDI ARABIA, the world's greatest oil exporting nation, and the UAE decided on a fixed 5 per cent oil price increase from last Jan. 1. The other OPEC members agreed on a 10 per cent increase to be followed by a further 5 per cent.

President Perez will be faced, in his two-day visit, with the most difficult task on his tour so far in trying to convince Saudi Arabia to align itself with the majority of OPEC and eliminate the first two-tier price system in the organisation's history.

Venezuelan sources said yesterday that President Perez had no specific figure or formula in mind as a compromise, but would sound out OPEC leaders during his trip.

The sources said "the president is not trying to sell any specific idea. He has no fixed proposals, but he is using his good offices to try to promote a solution."

The sources said that Senator Perez felt he could play a useful role as mediator because

of his kind in the 27-year history of Communist China. Five other Politburo members also appear to be taking no part in the event, but analysts said there were no clear political conclusions drawn from their absence.

Seven thousand delegates are attending the "Learn from Taching Conference," most of them billeted in tents erected between derricks.

Taching workers are set as a national model for the way they developed Manchuria's wasteland into the country's richest oil field despite harsh conditions.

Apart from laying down industrial guidelines, the conference is being used as a place for further denunciation of the political leaders purged last October.

In the opening speech, Premier Li Hsien-nien called for "a new big leap forward" and asserted China could surpass the economy of the United States in several dozen years.

Chairman Hua is expected to address the conference which is scheduled to conclude in Peking in its later stages.

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Qadhafi was shot at, says Egyptian agency

CAIRO, April 25 (AFP). — Libyan head of state Muammar Qadhafi was the victim of an abortive assassination attempt last week, the Egyptian Middle East News Agency reported yesterday citing travellers back from Libya.

The agency said that a Libyan national shot Col. Qadhafi in the arm and then took his own life.

The agency also quoted the travellers as saying that anti-Qadhafi leaflets were being distributed in the Libyan coastal city of Benghazi following the alleged "execution of scores of young Libyans."

As a result, Col. Qadhafi called on loyalist troops to put down any eventual popular uprising, the Egyptian agency said.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Al-Akhar daily newspaper, in its continuing campaign against Libya, said yesterday that Cuban troops had shown up in Tripoli, Benghazi and Tobruk.

The paper said that the Cuban soldiers took positions around key public buildings.

France's decision to provide logistic support to Zaire followed by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's pledge in Dakar last week to defend the security of African states have raised the issue of a concerted European policy towards Africa.

French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud stressed in London on April 18 during a ministerial meeting of the nine-member European Economic Community (EEC) that the French initiative in Zaire was a purely French decision not involving other EEC partners.

In Dakar, President Giscard d'Estaing said France recognised the right of African

countries to security and would "fulfil its commitments each time this proved necessary."

He said Africans and Europeans should "unite" to form a middle road between the two superpowers. But observers said President Giscard d'Estaing's statement probably referred to a broader European geographical entity rather than the EEC.

Nevertheless, the French action drew reservations from certain EEC members, Belgium particularly, whose Foreign Minister Renaat van Elslande did not trouble to hide his criticism of what he hinted was "meddling" in the affairs of the former Belgian colony.

Mr. Elslande later qualified his statement explaining that his remarks did not refer only

to France but also to the Americans and the Japanese.

Meanwhile in Italy, the newspaper Il Popolo, organ of the ruling Christian Democrat Party described the French initiative in Zaire as "anachronistic" and one which might turn Africa into a "huge battlefield."

These criticisms by Belgium and Italy were apparently not raised during the EEC ministerial meeting in London where Mr. de Guiringaud's clarification of French policy was welcomed "with satisfaction."

In fact, European reaction was perhaps more favourable than the French government itself expected, observers said.

One fact stands out clearly however: That in the elaboration of this "new look" French policy in Africa, concertation between European partners played no part.

The Zaire intervention has rather highlighted the still formidable obstacles, based on varying interests and ideological assessment, in the path of a concerted European approach to world problems.

Despite this, concertation is regarded as the first step towards the EEC's goal of political unification.

Observers do not therefore rule out that the problem may be handled at another level during the forthcoming summit in May of industrialised countries in London which U.S. President Jimmy Carter is expected to attend.

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WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

* TEL AVIV, April 25 (AFP). — Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon denied that resumption of diplomatic ties between Israel and the Soviet Union was in the offing at a cabinet meeting here yesterday. He said that there were no such indications from any Soviet Bloc countries either. Yesterday's cabinet meeting was the first chaired by acting Premier Shimon Peres following the resignation of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Allon also scoffed at reports that Austria and the Ivory Coast were acting as mediators to bring about mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Mr. Allon said that the United States floated "a variety of ideas" aiming at a Mideast settlement but that Washington scrupulously avoided to press for any particular idea, such as the controversial advance warning system, a tentative guarantee for Israel's security.

* KUWAIT, April 25 (AFP). — United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan in a newspaper interview yesterday called for countries bordering the Gulf region to take a unified stand to defend their security. "The only possible guarantee of security in the Gulf is a unified position of its bordering countries while taking into account the interests of each," said the sheikh in an interview published yesterday by the Kuwaiti daily Al-Siyassah. "Until this unified position has been taken, it is best to allow the question of any further inquiry into Gulf security to remain frozen," the sheikh added.

* NUREMBERG, West Germany April 25 (R). — An armed Polish soldier held 61 West German tourists at gunpoint on a plane at Krakow Airport and tried to hijack their aircraft to Africa, the German travellers said here today. They said the would-be hijacker seized the two stewardesses of the Tupolev TU-134 charter plane of the Polish state airline LOT yesterday, but was overpowered by Polish militia. The plane's departure was delayed for six hours because of the incident, travellers said. The soldier, armed with a machine pistol, said he had just deserted his unit while on manoeuvres and wanted to hijack the plane to Africa, they added.

* DJIBOUTI, April 25 (R). — The list of candidates in the general elections due to take place in the Afars and Issas Territory (Djibouti) on May 8 which coincides with the referendum on independence was released here Saturday night. The list is composed of the leaders of the pro-Somali African Popular League for Independence (LPAI) as well as members of the Mogadishio-based Liberation Front of the Somali Coast (FLCS) but excludes the pro-Ethiopian National Union for Independence (UNI), the Popular Liberation Movement (MPL) and the Addis-Ababa based Djibouti Liberation Movement (MLD).

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